**Vocabulary/Glossary**

* *Evolution* - The process of change over time based on change in the genetic composition of a population.
* Artificial selection - selective breeding of plants and animals to promote the occurrence of desirable traits in offspring
* Competition - When organisms attempt to use the same limited ecological resource in the same place a the same time.
* Selective Pressure - Environmental conditions leading to differential fitness based on the value of a particular trait.
* *Charles Darwin* - A naturalist who developed the theory of natural selection to explain how biological evolution occurs.   His theory explains how modern organisms evolved over long periods of time via descent with modification.
* *Adaptation*:   Heritable characteristics that increases an organism's ability to survive and reproduce in an environment.
* *Natural Selection* - Process by which organisms that are most suited to their environment survive and reproduce more efficiently and effectively than those not as well suited.
* *Environmental changes* - Changes in the abiotic and/or biotic  factors in which the organism lives.  These changes challenge the ability of the organism to survive as they obtain food, maintain homeostasis and the ability to reproduce.
* *Genetic Variability* - The diversity and proportion of diversity of the different genes in the gene pool which contribute to the varying phenotypes of the population.